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Incorporated November, 1895

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President.....Alfonse Ginochio
Vice President.....S. G. Spagnoli
Secretary and Cashier.....Frederick Eudey

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Alfonse Ginochio, S. G. Spagnoli, John Strohm, Frederick Eudey and Alex Eudey of Jackson.

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BLOTTING PAPER.

It Was Known and Used as Far Back as the Year 1675.

There is a pretty prevalent belief that blotting paper is a modern invention; that a hundred years ago it was unknown, white sand being used in its stead.

Blotting paper, as a matter of fact, was a recognized convenience of the writing desk as far back as 1675. In that year there was issued a book called "Townsend's Preparative to Pleading," a copy of which is in the possession of a Chicago antiquary, and this volume contains on page 8 the following paragraph:

"Let the dusting or sanding in books be avoided, rather using fine brown paper to prevent blotting if time of the ink's drying cannot be allowed, for sand takes away the good color of the ink, and, getting into the backs of books, makes them break their binding."

The sand that was used for blotting in the past was, the Chicago antiquary says, very clean and white and fine, and it was called silver sand. It was kept in a cruet with a perforated lid, like a salt cruet, and thence it was sifted over the wet writing. An odd thing about it was that the ink never seemed to stain it. It could be used over and over and it remained to the end as white as snow.

BATTLE STANDARDS.

So Ancient That Their Use Is Mentioned in the Bible.

The custom of carrying flags or standards in battle dates back at least to 1490 B. C. We find in Numbers 11, 2, that "every man of the children of Israel shall pitch by his own standard with the sign of his father's house." Each standard of the twelve tribes distinguished was supposed to have been of a color to correspond with the stone in Aaron's breastplate which bore the name of that tribe. Under the generic name banner are included many species, such as standard, ensign, pennon, flag, etc. These have been used from earliest times and in all countries to direct movements of troops.

The earliest Roman standard was a bundle of straw fixed to the top of a spear. This was succeeded by figures of animals, such as the horse and the boar, which soon gave place to the eagle, the chief Roman ensign, afterward assumed by the German and French emperors. By every warlike people the banner has been regarded as an emblem of national honor, in defense of which each soldier was at all times ready to die, while banners and flags taken from the enemy have always been special trophies of victory to which places of honor in public buildings have been assigned.

BOOTS AND SPURS.

Quaint Account of Hungarian Cavalry in Olden Days.

A contemporary manuscript account of the diet of Habsburg, held in 1630 by the Emperor Ferdinand II. on the occasion of the landing of Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden in Germany, mentions as a remarkable fact that the Hungarian cavalry who rode through the streets to the ceremonial wore their spurs on their boot soles.

It is difficult to credit that these spurs were fixed on the flat of the boot, for thus shod the horseman could neither walk nor stand, especially when the large size of the spurs worn at the period is considered. Probably the writer intended to indicate that the spurs of being fastened to the heel in the usual fashion they were made to project from the fore part of the military boot, which is a portion of the sole.

Frederick von Raumer, who quotes this in his "History of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries, Illustrated by Original Documents," passes the matter over without comment. The same manuscript adds that the Hungarian horses had their manes, tails and feet painted red.

Ancient Drinking Guilds.

It is gravely said by an authority that the Dutch guilds, the most ancient of workmen's organizations, had their origin in the drinking guilds, which, although they did not, as in the case of the Greeks and Romans, exalt drink to the rank of a deity, made it a kind of civic dignity. These drink guilds and drink brethren existed from the earliest times until the latter part of the sixteenth century, when their excess led to their suppression. It is held that men who worked together drank together and thus formed the primitive club which developed into the guild.—Notes and Queries.

Hose of Olden Time.

In the very long ago hose were not stockings as now worn, but made long and were often drawn up even to the waist, and, oddly enough, had pockets in their sides. We read, moreover, that in the time of the Tudors and Stuarts they were of great variety, both of material and color, and for such as could command the luxury were richly trimmed and costly; they were often called "nether stocks."

Useless Labor.

"Don't be afraid of making me angry by telling me your candid opinion of my verses, old fellow. Criticism doesn't make any difference with me."

"I know that, my dear boy, but the trouble is that it doesn't make any difference with your verse either."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Singular and Plural.

"Funny! There was a time when the barbers used to speak of my hair."

"You mean before you began to get bald?"

"Yes. Now they speak of my hairs!"—Philadelphia Press.

THE SNIPE'S DRUMMING.

A Naturalist's Theory as to How the Sound Is Produced.

It is disputed whether the snipe's drumming—a curious noise, suggestive of a miniature thrashing machine—is made by the bird with its wings or by its tail or by both wings and tail. Some recent observations incline me strongly to believe that the tail plays, at any rate, the more important part. During the performance the bird flies at a great height round and round in a wide, sweeping circle. At intervals he makes a sudden and rapid descent, holding his wings partly flexed and his tail spread to its full extent. The outermost tail feather on either side points outward at a greater angle than those adjoining it, so that when the bird is viewed through a good field glass daylight shows between it and the next, and, if I am right in my view, the drumming sound is due to the rush of air against this isolated feather. The snipe's tail feathers seem so puny that it is at first difficult to believe that they can produce so great a result. But if an outer one be taken—it is slightly scimitar shaped, with the outer web much reduced—and swung rapidly through the air the drumming noise may be distinctly heard, though it seems but a very faint echo of the loud, throbbing hum that startles one when it suddenly descends from an ethereal height, and the small bird is described, hardly more than a speck to the naked eye, circling round in wild career and now and then swooping headlong downward and thrilling the air with his weird music.—London Nature.

Modest Abbe Delle.

It is said that the French Abbe Delle once had in his household a very quick tempered relative, with whom he sometimes had animated disputes and who sometimes went so far as to throw books at the abbe. The abbe must have been a person of great amiability and self control. Once, when a particularly large and heavy volume was thrown at him, he caught it gracefully and said:

"My dear friend, I must beg of you to remember that I prefer smaller gifts."

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"Yes, she rejected him because of a bad break he made when he was proposing to her."

"What was that?"

"He told her his wife was 'one in a thousand.' She thinks she's one of the Four Hundred."—Philadelphia Ledger.

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Mrs. Dearborn—Were you married in June?

Mrs. Wabash—Yes, once on the 5th, once on the 8th, once on the 10th and another time on the 16th; but I've switched off to October; that's my marrying month now.—Yonkers Statesman.

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Mistress—Did the fisherman who stopped here this morning have frogs' legs? Nora—Sure, mum, I dinnae. He wore pants.—Cornell Widow.

About the only compliment a husband can pay his wife is to eat her cooking, and ask her for help when he gets into trouble.—Atchison Globe.

Why Windmills Burned Down.

Of the production of fire by the friction of wood against wood windmills of the old construction gave on a large scale some disastrous examples. When the force of the wind increased the miller was obliged to bring each of the sails in succession to the ground in order to unclog it, but when sudden squalls came on this was impracticable, and the mill in extreme cases ran away—that is, could not be stopped.

Everything was now done to increase the grip of the wooden brake round the great wheel on the driving shaft, and water was poured copiously over them, but in spite of all this flames would sometimes burst out from the intense friction and the mill be probably ruined, by which the miller controls the action of the sails from the interior of the building, has reduced this danger to a minimum.—Notes and Queries.

Memory.

There are 100 different varieties of memory, and perhaps we cannot altogether choose which we will possess, though every sort, when we have the germ of it, may be cultivated. To learn anything by heart the best plan is to read a sentence and repeat it without a book, then read the next sentence and repeat the two, and so on. Repetition is of great importance. "line upon line." More is learned and remembered by reading through one book twice than by reading two books once. After a thing has been learned it must be recalled and gone over at intervals, or the impression will fade away.

Spats.

Where did spats come from? Highland soldiers wore them first. Because of the bravery of highlanders at Lucknow and elsewhere in India during the Indian mutiny the people of England looked about for some way to show their admiration. Scrutiny of the highland dress disclosed that spats were the most suitable for adoption, so they were adopted and have been commonly worn ever since.

Those Sweet Girls.

Drusilla—I did not see you at the Vanhant reception last night, dear Dorothy.—No, I hoped to be able to go up to the last moment, but was prevented. Drusilla (sweetly)—Yes; I know the invitations were limited.—St. Louis Republic.

We all spend too much time in complaining that we lack time to do things.—Atchison Globe.

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Economy.

"Economy," said a Wyoming man, "is always admirable. A Cheyenne hunter, though, was disgusted the other day with the economical spirit of a visitor to his shop."

"This visitor, a tall man with gray hair, entered with a soft felt hat, wrapped in paper, in his hand."

"How much will it cost," he said, "to dye this hat gray, to match my hair?"

"About a dollar," the latter answered.

"The tall man wrapped the hat up again."

"I won't pay it," he said. "I can get my hair dyed to match the hat for a quarter."

A Villain.

Lady of the House (to her friend)—What do you suppose has happened? At the last ball my Elsie made the acquaintance of a young man who was obviously interested. He was a good match, so I sent him frequent invitations to dinner, and as I knew he was a great gourmand I employed the best cook that was to be had. Her friend—And your plan succeeded? Lady of the House—Well, not exactly. The villain found out and married my cook.

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LIVER TROUBLES

"I find Theford's Black-Draught a good medicine for liver disease. It cured my case. I had spent \$100 on doctors. It cost me only one bottle. I take it."—MRS. CAROLINE MARTIN, Parkersburg, W. Va.

If your liver does not act regularly go to your druggist and secure a package of Theford's Black-Draught and take a dose tonight. This great family medicine frees the constipated bowels, stirs up the torpid liver and causes a healthy secretion of bile.

Theford's Black-Draught will cleanse the bowels of impurities and strengthen the kidneys. A torpid liver invites colds, biliousness, chills and fever and all manner of sickness and contagion. Weak kidneys result in Bright's disease which claims as many victims as consumption. A 25-cent package of Theford's Black-Draught should always be kept in the house.

"I used Theford's Black-Draught for liver and kidney complaints and found nothing to equal it."—WILLIAM COFFMAN, Marblehead, Ill.

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DR. GIBBON has practiced in San Francisco over 40 years, and those troubled should not fail to consult him and receive the benefit of his great skill and experience. The doctor cures when others fail. Try him. Cures guaranteed. Persons cured at home. Charges reasonable. Call or write.

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